



# Brothers of Good Works Water and Sanitation

Restoring health and dignity

— Addis Ababa, Ethiopia —



He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

MICAH 6:8



## **We are a Catholic ministry**

that mobilizes the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Rather than create new institutions to distribute aid, we support existing ministries and churches already serving the poor. In addition to being the most cost-effective way of helping the poor, empowering these ministries allows us to support the Church's spiritual mission and its important position of leadership in poor communities.

We consider every gift we receive as a precious resource from God. We direct every donation to its intended project, provide honest and accurate reports to our donors, and keep overhead costs to an industry low. We handle funds with utmost integrity and hold our ministry partners in the field to the same high standards by asking them to document costs and the impact of their outreach.

We invite you to join with us as we seek to transform the lives of the poor materially and spiritually — ways that please the Father and glorify him in Heaven and on earth.



## Project Synopsis

### Description

This project will build much-needed sanitation facilities for poor families and provide training in hygiene and sanitation.

### Purpose

To uphold the dignity of the poor and prevent the spread of disease caused by unsanitary conditions.

### Affiliation

Congregation of the Brothers of Good Works.

### Cost

**\$59,400** will provide for the construction of four new latrines with four seats each, and repair six existing latrines with six seats each, along with

education on proper hygiene and sanitation practices. This will benefit 186 households totaling 212 adults and 844 children.

### Location

Woreda 02, a densely populated district of Arada Subcity, a disadvantaged urban community in Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, which is one of the fastest-growing cities worldwide.

### Project Summary

- Poor families must use either old latrines in horrid condition or no sanitation facilities at all.
- With no sanitation, they resort to practices that pollute the environment and spread bacteria and disease.
- The stress and indignity of such living conditions also affect their well-being.
- The Brothers of Good Works run a multifaceted ministry to the most vulnerable members of the community.
- Cross Catholic Outreach is partnering with the Brothers of Good Works to provide latrines and hygiene and sanitation training to the most disadvantaged families in the community.
- We seek compassionate Catholics to uphold the dignity of the poor by meeting this most basic need.





## The Need

Imagine living in a cramped, damp, makeshift shanty fouled by the stench of raw sewage running through nearby trenches or collecting in puddles along the streets or alleyways. Such is life for the residents of Woreda 02, a densely populated, disadvantaged community in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

And, sadly, those horrible sights and smells are only part of this sad story. To fully grasp the hardships these poor families face, you'll also need to imagine navigating through the daily health issues their neighborhood's insufficient sanitation creates. For example, faucets drawing from groundwater sources can become so contaminated that the water they provide looks brown and smells putrid. Those who drink it — including many young children — constantly get sick.

Issues like this can plague developing countries like Ethiopia because their governments do not regulate pollution or sanitation disposal. To make matters even worse for residents around the capital city, Addis Ababa's infrastructure isn't keeping pace with the rapidly growing population. Therefore, for the residents of Woreda 02, there's simply nowhere for their waste to go!

Imagine your family being forced to:

- Use one of the neighborhood's 70-year-old overflowing public latrines, which are disgustingly dirty and so dilapidated they're no longer really private.
- Squat on the ground near the riverbank under cover of darkness. If you're a woman or girl, there's a risk of sexual assault.
- Rely on plastic bags in which to eliminate waste, and then find a place to discard them.
- Use a bucket for urinating, and then empty its contents into the river.

Under these conditions, you can see how life-threatening bacteria and communicable diseases are easily spread. Deadly cholera has occasionally swept through this community.

The people living in these deplorable conditions are mostly hardworking, God-fearing families simply struggling to survive from day to day. When asked, many admitted these horrid sanitation conditions make them feel "indecent" and contribute to a "low self-esteem." Surely, God must grieve to see his children in situations like this!



*Residents must resort to using old pit latrines such as these, which are so dilapidated only the hole in the ground remains. These are dangerous for children to use.*





## The Project

To respond to the situation with compassion, Cross Catholic Outreach wants to partner with the Congregation of the Brothers of Good Works to build clean, safe latrines for the most vulnerable families and individuals in the Woreda 02 community.

The Brothers will work hand in hand with participating families, who will share ownership of the project. For example, one member of each family will attend a full-day training session to learn proper sanitation and hygiene practices.

When construction is completed, each family will receive a key to a stall that will be shared with a handful of other families. These families can then take turns cleaning their stall on a regular schedule.

By taking ownership of this project, families will be given the opportunity to rise to the occasion as capable citizens. They will be empowered to participate in improving their own circumstances. This empowerment approach is one of Cross Catholic's Core Values.

When a latrine is officially ready to open for use, the Brothers will send a priest at the community's request to bless the new facilities as a sign of God's mercy and role in blessing those in need. Through this act of thanksgiving, families will have the chance to gather and celebrate the goodness of God.



*This project will build multi-seat latrines such as this one, with private stalls shared by specific families who will take turns with cleaning and upkeep.*

### Our Partner

The Brothers of Good Works run three main ministries in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia:

- **St. Gabriel Catholic Health Center** — A full-service health center serving the poor community.
- **The Counseling and Social Services Center** — A multifaceted program to empower 1) people living with HIV/AIDS, 2) children who are orphaned or vulnerable due to HIV, and 3) people living with a disability. This program includes housing, physical therapy, nutrition, education and microenterprise, as well as community awareness to diminish the stigma of their conditions. Participants graduate from the program empowered to support themselves.
- **The Elderly People Support Project** — Gives elderly people who are homeless, or on the brink of homelessness, a place to shower, wash their clothes and enjoy a hot meal. This sanitation project is a component of this program, giving the elderly (and others) ready access to clean, new community latrines.

The Brothers of Good Works refers to beneficiaries of these programs as “clients,” to uphold the dignity of the poor and to maintain their own attitude of humility toward those they serve.



## Help Now!



In 1 Corinthians 12:23-26, St. Paul uses an analogy that can apply to the Church — as well as to dire situations. In essence, he says that those parts of the body that are least popular or desirable should actually be treated with the most dignity. In the same way, Cross Catholic Outreach believes that those people who are consigned to the most undignified circumstances deserve our utmost honor and attention.

Poor families in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, have been quietly suffering untold indignities because of their community’s lack of proper sanitation. Rather than avoid this need because the situations involved might be considered too private or sensitive to discuss, Cross Catholic Outreach believes we should be helping the Brothers of Good Works address the problem immediately and directly. Only then can we improve the health, safety, well-being and self-esteem of those involved.

As Christ followers called to be his hands and feet in service to the poor, we can ease the suffering of these families, uphold their dignity and esteem them as treasured children of God. Please — join with Cross Catholic Outreach and the Brothers of Good Works to provide much-needed latrines and training for these distraught families today.

**And those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.**

1 CORINTHIANS 12:23-26

### Our Promise to You!

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2022, the close of our ministry’s fiscal year. In the event that more funds are raised than needed to fully fund the project, the excess funds, if any, will be used to meet the most urgent needs of the ministry.

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